

Oregon can't get any respect from the bowls

When the Freedom Bowl Committee extended an unofficial invitation to Oregon Athletic Director Bill Byrne Monday, he accepted. That doesn't mean the Ducks are necessarily going to the Freedom Bowl.

Official invitations cannot be extended until Nov. 24, so there is still a chance that Oregon could go to some other bowl than the Freedom Bowl. However, it seems unlikely, which is a shame.

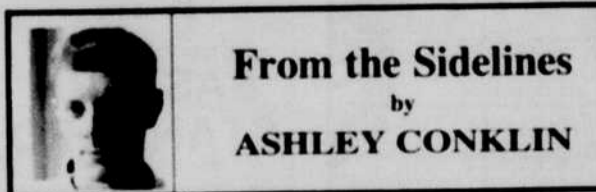
At 7-2 overall, the Ducks have a very good chance of finishing the regular season at 9-2. For other programs in the nation, this would mean a New Year's Day trip to some bowl, usually as the visiting team going against the conference champion.

For the Ducks, New Year's Day has been a time to watch other teams play on television.

It's been a long, uphill battle for Oregon Coach Rich Brooks to get some respect for his team. The Ducks finally got some last year with a trip to the Independence Bowl, but this year, respect hasn't come as it should have.

The Independence Bowl was a great first step for the Ducks. An appearance in a bowl — any bowl — was a godsend for Oregon last year and sent the state into hysteria.

There has been that same hysteria this year following a win over Brigham Young, ranked No. 4 at the



From the Sidelines
by
ASHLEY CONKLIN

time, and a fourth-quarter comeback against UCLA that capped an undefeated home season.

Unfortunately, that same appreciation hasn't come from the bowl scouts.

A Freedom Bowl scout has been at every Duck game since Oct. 13, and there have been visits from the Copper and John Hancock Bowls. However, the really big bowls have stayed away.

If Oregon does indeed close out the season at 9-2, it shouldn't be playing in either the Freedom, Copper, Aloha or John Hancock Bowl. Where the Ducks should really be is in the Gator Bowl or the Fiesta Bowl.

Every year teams that finish second or third in their conferences go to the Gator or Fiesta Bowl. Last week USC was a strong candidate for the Gator Bowl until it tied with California. Two years ago, UCLA went to the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day and won.

But the Ducks won't be playing on New Year's Day

this year or in the near future unless they win the Pacific-10 Conference.

What it all comes down to is respect, and Oregon certainly misses out on it.

Granted, Brooks, now in his 14th season at Oregon, has a 67-83-4 career record at Oregon. But the Ducks are 43-34 over the last seven seasons, and Brooks has definitely turned the program around.

Respect has become a theme of this year's football team. After the win against BYU, Brooks wore a T-shirt with the slogan "Respect: Demand It" into the post-game interview area.

It has become a theme not only among the football team but the athletic department and community as well. Oregon basketball coach Don Monson wore a baseball hat at last Saturday's game against UCLA with the "Respect: Demand It" slogan.

With Oregon now going to its second straight bowl game, perhaps that respect and a better bowl will come next year. The Ducks keep moving up in the world of college football, but like the saying goes, "They did it the old fashioned way: They earned it."

They have to, because it's clear no one will give the Ducks the credit and respect they deserve.

Lucas, Selden, Sporcich lead scrimmage victories

The Oregon basketball teams tuned-up for exhibition openers with intra-squad scrimmages on Sunday at McArthur Court.

In the men's scrimmage, the Gold squad dominated the White squad 95-61 before an estimated crowd of 1,100.

Meanwhile, the Gold squad beat the Green squad 78-55 in the women's scrimmage.

Richard Lucas and David Blair had strong performances to lead the men's Gold team to an easy victory with 33 and 24 points, respectively. Lucas added 21 rebounds while junior transfer Chuck Patterson scored 12 points, and freshman Clyde Jordan chipped in 11.

Bob Fife paced the White squad with 19 points and nine rebounds while freshman Orlando Williams dropped in 18.

Coach Don Monson held starting guard Terrell Brandon and freshman Jordy Lyden out of the scrimmage because of injuries. Brandon had an ankle injury while Lyden had a sore leg, but both are expected to play in this Sunday's exhibition game with Brandt Hagen at Mac Court.

Sophomore point guard Vanessa Selden and freshman forward Debbie Sporcich tossed in 20 points each to lead the Gold team in the women's scrimmage. Sporcich also pulled down 12 rebounds as the Gold held a 49-31 rebounding advantage.

Staci Wallenborn led all scorers in the scrimmage, scoring 15 points for the Green team and nine for the Gold team, and hitting six of 10 from the three-point line.

Neither team had a great shooting performance as the Gold squad converted only 40 percent from the field and the Green team hit on only 39 percent of its attempts.

Freshman Sara Wilson had 11 points and nine rebounds for the Gold team while Trina McCartney had 12 points and six rebounds for the Green team. The women's team will open the exhibition season Thursday by hosting the Civic Advance Capitals at 7:30 p.m.

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